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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Department review

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

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Political Developments in South Vietnam: Arrangements for the September election of representatives to the upper house of South Vietnam's permanent National Assembly are virtually complete.

Sixty-four slates of ten candidates each were submitted to the central election council by the filing deadline of 30 June. Each voter will be allowed to vote for six slates to fill the 60 seats in the new senate. Arrangements are also proceeding for the election in



November of representatives to the lower house, which is expected to have a minimum membership of 117 deputies.

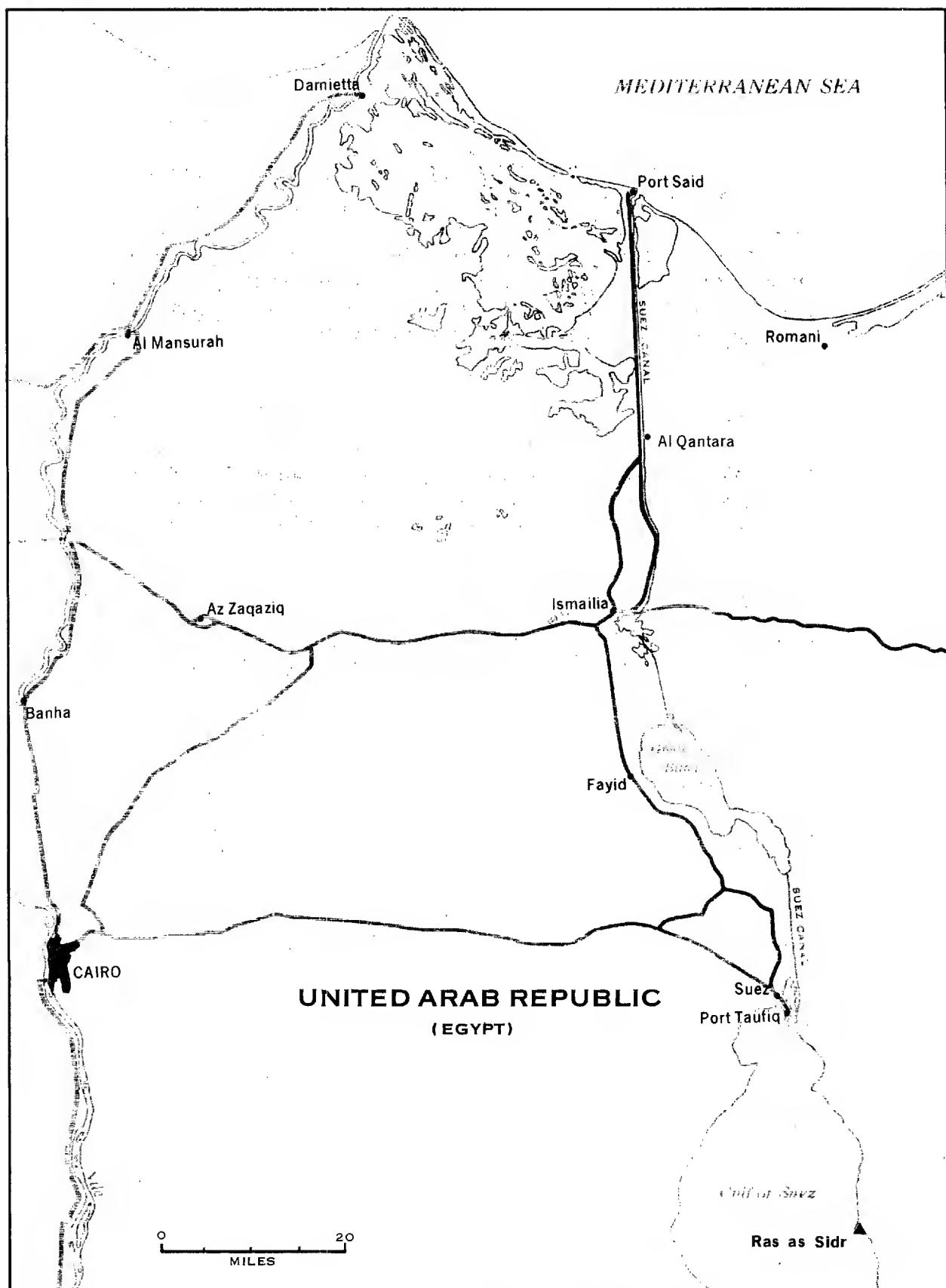
The large number of slates has caused concern among South Vietnamese politicians that the voters will be confused. Premier Ky expressed his belief to an American observer on 2 July that the projected senatorial election procedures will not provide the electorate with a meaningful choice of qualified candidates and that as a result the new upper house will be a disorganized and ineffectual body.

Military Situation in South Vietnam: Significant ground action in South Vietnam on 4 July was confined to the I Corps area where sporadic fighting continued between US Marine and North Vietnamese units just south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

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Many of the bunker and tunnel complexes in this area have been reconstructed and reoccupied by the NVA battalions conducting the attacks between 1 and 4 July, which were strongly supported by extensive mortar, rocket, and artillery fire. US Marine casualties to date are 75 killed, 289 wounded, and 27 missing. The known enemy dead number 158.

THE SUEZ CANAL AREA



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*Middle East:

United Nations: The UN General Assembly last night rejected both the nonaligned-sponsored Middle East resolution backed by the Soviet Union and the Latin American one supported by the United States.

The assembly did, however, pass a Pakistani resolution calling upon Israel to rescind its annexation of Jerusalem. The vote on this was 99 to 0 with two abstentions. The General Assembly will meet again today to decide where it goes from here.

The strenuous lobbying tactics by the Soviet Union and France over the weekend failed to sway supporters of the Latin American resolution. On the other hand, the hard core of Communist countries, Arab states, and some nonaligned countries provided the one-third vote necessary to block the Latin American resolution.

Cease-Fire Violation: The claimed Israeli downing of an Egyptian fighter over the Sinai Peninsula yesterday does not appear to have elicited any response from Egypt that would lead to renewal of full-scale hostilities.

Israel's announcement that its antiaircraft guns shot down a probable Egyptian MIG-19 near Ras as Sidr, 30 miles south of Suez, followed three days of sporadic cease-fire violations in the Suez area and reports of violations along the Syrian cease-fire line as well.

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Oil Shipments: While Arab oil exports remain far below the normal level, all major producers now are shipping and some cracks are beginning to appear in the total ban on shipments to the US and UK.

In what appears to be the first break in the restriction on loading US and UK tankers, the American Embassy in

Kuwait reports that the Kuwait Oil Company is expecting one US and several UK tankers over the weekend. The Kuwaiti Government has apparently authorized their loading. The ships' eventual destinations are not yet known.

Another break in the oil ban may be coming from Saudi Arabia. In a Saturday press article, Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani stressed his country's revenue losses stemming from the temporary complete shutdown and the current reduced volume of oil exports. This was repeated by a Saudi commentator, who added that restrictions on oil shipments were harming Arab producers more than the boycotted nations. A high Saudi official has confirmed to the US Ambassador that this is the first step in a campaign to condition the Saudi public to an eventual resumption of oil shipments to the US and UK.

In spite of a widespread strike following the Libyan Government's announcement that it was resuming oil exports to selected countries, oil shipments reportedly commenced on schedule yesterday. One tanker cleared the Oasis oil terminal and others were said to be ready to load. The government has apparently decided to take firm action against the strike organizers, 15 of whom were reported to have been arrested. While the strike is hampering oil operations, some oil is being loaded.

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Communist China - Hong Kong: Peking has temporarily relaxed its pressure. The mainland resumed food shipments on 3 July, ending the four-day food strike in Hong Kong. Despite Communist claims of success, the strike failed. Nonetheless, the Communists probably will continue their harassment of the colony. Peking continues to ignore a request for additional water and is not obligated to supply more until October. At present the water shortage is not critical, however.

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*Cuba: A partially constructed SA-3-type surface-to-air missile (SAM) site in a Havana suburb was noted

This is the first time the SA-3, intended primarily for defense against low-level attacks, has been deployed outside the Soviet Union. The delivery of these new missiles would represent another phase in the refurbishing of the Cuban armed forces which began last September.

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*Congo (Kinshasa): The mutiny which broke out today in Bukavu is the most serious threat yet to the tenuous stability imposed by the Mobutu regime. First reports indicate that a unit of troops from Katanga Province and the only remaining contingent of white mercenaries are involved, and that they are reacting to the government's kidnaping of former premier Tshombe. If they are not controlled quickly, unrest could break out elsewhere in the Congo while Mobutu is busy with the mutiny.

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